

D. C. RULERS O. K. PAGE BILL FOR TWO PER CENT ON LOANS

Commissioners Declare Present Law Restricting Interest to One Per Cent Works Hardship on Poor.

Utilities Board. They Say, Has Ample Power to Lower Price of Gas and Grant Universal Transfers.

Declaring the law now in force limiting interest to 1 per cent a month has worked a hardship on poor persons, the Commissioners today sent to Congress a favorable report on the bill introduced by Congressman Page of North Carolina increasing the rate of interest under the "loan shark act" from 1 to 2 per cent a month. The legislation seeks also to prevent loans being made outside of the District on application made in the District.

Special legislation providing for a reduction in the price of gas, in the opinion of the Commissioners is not necessary, in view of the powers conferred upon the Public Utilities Commission.

BOARD HAS AMPLE POWERS.

In reports transmitted on four bills to reduce the price of gas, the board states that the public utility law confers upon the Public Utilities Commission ample power for the proper control of the service and rates of the gas companies, and that it is believed to be the intent of Congress that any action taken with reference to fixing the price of gas should follow as a result of a working out of that law.

Opposed to Pension Bill.

A similar report is made on the bill introduced by Congressman Clark of Florida providing for universal transfers on the street car and electric lines. The Public Utilities Commission, it is stated, will be in a position to act upon the question of universal transfers when the valuations of the properties of the street railways, now nearing completion, are determined.

An adverse report was admitted on a bill introduced by Congressman Kahn to authorize the Commissioner to place on the pension roll the names of certain members of the old fire department. The Commissioners say they cannot be certain that the persons mentioned in the proposed legislation represent all the survivors of the old fire department, nor is there any record to show that the beneficiaries named in the bill were actually in the service.

Favorable action is recommended on a bill by Congressman Clegg to provide for the removal to another site of the cemetery of the White House. Numbered thirty-nine of the Ancient United Order of Sons and Daughters, Brethren and Sisters of Hoopes.

Of greater part of the cemetery is the line of thirty-seventh street extended, which fact, it is stated, has interfered with the use of the cemetery in recent years, and the cemetery has been abandoned.

BRANDEIS CASE GOES OVER TO SATURDAY

Senate Subcommittee Starts Reading of Documents For and Against Appointee.

After a preliminary meeting today, the subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee in charge of the case of Louis D. Brandeis, nominated for justice of the Supreme Court, adjourned until 10:30 Saturday.

SEVEN CABLES TO U. S. HAVE BEEN DISABLED

Submarine Believed to Have Snipped Great Trunk Lines From Europe.

ALL BUSINESS IS DELAYED

Remaining Wires Are Burdened With Great Mass of Communications.

LONDON, Feb. 3.—Seven of Europe's cables to America have been mysteriously cut out of business. For more than a month they have been lying at the bottom of the ocean, temporarily useless while the remaining ones are overburdened with the great mass of communications passing daily between the two continents.

Satisfactory information is unobtainable here, but it was rumored today that a new type of German submarine, equipped for cable cutting, may be working off Europe's western coast.

Near French Coast.

Two French cables, stretching from Brest for 3,000 miles to Cape Cod and Newfoundland, it is rumored, have been snipped off the French coast. Five others, those from Ireland to New Groundland, and Nova Scotia, over which much of the business between London and American cities passes, are reported to have been cut.

Possible Routes.

In that event messages would have to be transmitted with great delay and at great expense via Oporto, to Spain, thence to Madeira, the Canary Islands, Pernambuco, Brazil, and then relayed to New York. The only other possible route would be via Egypt, India, China, and San Francisco.

France Wants Big Loan From America

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—France wants one and two hundred million dollars more of American money for the war, according to Wall Street reports today. J. P. Morgan is enroute to Europe on the Rotterdam today to see about it.

Trip of J. P. Morgan Said to Have Bearing on Another Consignment.

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—The murder of Mrs. Annes M. Tepler, wealthy widow of a local steel manufacturer, and her son Frederick, will be re-enacted for the benefit of the county authorities on the Orchard Park highway today.

STATE DEPARTMENT GETS PAPER PAPERS

Nothing of a materially incriminating nature was contained in the copies of papers taken from Captain von Papen, captured German military attaché, by the British authorities and forwarded to the State Department a high department official said today. There is no evidence that would aid the authorities in running down plots in this country.

British Ship Chasehill Has Foundered At Sea

LONDON, Feb. 3.—The British steamer Chasehill, which sailed from New York January 19 for Havre, foundered at sea. Advice to her owners here today said that her crew was saved.

Civilian Prisoners on Appam Freed; Vessel Detained by U. S. Authorities



Above—Sentry guarding Appam's gangway. Below, at left—GOV. GEN. SIR EDWARD M. MERVETHER. At right—LIEUT. HANS BERGE.

RE-ENACT MURDER OF BUFFALO WOMAN

Son Detained Awaiting Investigation of Killing of Mother Near Automobile.

BUFFALO, Feb. 3.—The murder of Mrs. Annes M. Tepler, wealthy widow of a local steel manufacturer, and her son Frederick, will be re-enacted for the benefit of the county authorities on the Orchard Park highway today.

ALL U-BOAT ISSUES REPORTED SETTLED

ZURICH, Feb. 3.—German financiers have been assured by their government that German-American controversies are about to be settled, according to dispatches from Frankfurt today. As a result the German bourse rallied sharply today.

Mrs. Hofheinz Succumbs To Wounds in Throat

Mrs. Louise Hofheinz, fifty-seven years old, who was found with her throat and wrists gashed early yesterday morning, in the bathroom of her home, 212 M street northwest, died from her injuries at the Emergency Hospital today.

MUST FACE COURT IN CODE THEFT CASE

Torpedo Flotilla Commander and Aide At Time of Disappearance Ordered to Trial

Lieut. Herbert A. Jones, commander of the reserve torpedo flotilla, and Ensign Robert D. Kirkpatrick, navigation officer, today were ordered court-martialed because of loss or theft of the navy's secret code book from the destroyer Hull.

Department At Sea.

The State Department is frankly at sea as to where its obligations lie. Under a general principle of international law a neutral port cannot be made a prison detention camp for a belligerent power. But the general principles of international law, it is admitted, would require the United States to refuse asylum to the Appam as a prize of war.

ONE CAR AT TIME ON AQUEDUCT BRIDGE

As an additional safeguard to the Aqueduct bridge, the Commissioners today adopted a regulation prohibiting more than one street car on the bridge at one time.

ASKS U. S. TO FREE ENGLISH ON APPAM

British Ambassador Wants All Subjects on Board Released By Germans.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, today appealed again to the State Department for the release of all British subjects on board the liner Appam. The renewal of the appeal was made necessary by the fact that the German prize crew commander, Lieutenant Borge, has refused to permit some of the Britishers to disembark, despite the request of the State Department.

OTHER BELLIGERENTS.

Four members of the crew of the Clan McTavish, Australian mail steamer, whose valiant battle against the mysterious sea raider, whose exploits in the east Atlantic resulted in the Appam's capture, are also detained until their status can be determined at Washington.

Commissioners Adopt Regulation As Additional Safeguard to Safety of Structure.

As an additional safeguard to the Aqueduct bridge, the Commissioners today adopted a regulation prohibiting more than one street car on the bridge at one time.

BELLIGERENTS ARE HELD IN CUSTODY BY GERMANS

Mystery in Identity of Sea Raider Deepens—Liner's Status Unsettled.

NORFOLK, Feb. 3.—Confined as German prisoners of war for nineteen days, 244 British civilians and one American citizen were released today from the liner Appam now lying at Newport News, the subject of an international dispute as to her status.

Still confined to their state rooms by their German captors are the British crew of the Appam against whose release Lieutenant Borge, commanding the vessel's prize crew, has protested on the ground that they are belligerents, and twelve other British officers.

WANTS BIGGEST NAVY.

In speaking of the navy, the President said that to adequately protect this country's coastlines, "I think our navy should be the greatest in the world—it should be unconquerable."

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WILSON WANTS BIGGEST NAVY IN WORLD TO PROTECT U. S.

Tells St. Louis He Intends That Record of His Administration Shall Be One of Genuine, Not Pretended, Neutrality.

President Is Confident the West Will Urge Congress to Pass Legislation For Preparedness Within a Month.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 3.—In a stirring speech today President Wilson told St. Louis that he intends the record of his Administration to be one "of genuine neutrality and not pretended neutrality."

The audience, several thousand of whom were of German lineage, applauded the declaration until the Coliseum rang.

"I am ready to make allowances for both sides," the President said. "And I have tried to think so far as is possible from the point of view of the other side."

"I know," he added solemnly, "how my own heart would burn and how my head would whirl if I saw my country in danger."

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The President again pointed out the dangers to the country in maintaining this country's trade. "There are cargoes of wheat, flour, and manufactures," he said, "all of which come into contact with the fire abroad—all combustible into which sparks from those fires may fall."

President Wilson stirred his audience of 8,000 when he solemnly warned the people of Missouri to prepare for the upholding of American rights and ideals.

Will Not Settle War.

"Preparedness never can and never will finally and effectively settle warfare," the resolution said.

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